# MIGRATORY BIRD

## 1996 HUNTING REGULATIONS STATE OF MONTANA

Jim Borgreen, Artist

By order of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission, the seasons, limits and regulations listed herein shall govern the 1996 migratory bird hunting season. The migratory bird hunting regulations are valid March 1, 1996 through February 28, 1997. These hunting regulations were adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on Sept. 3, 1996. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission: Patrick J. Graham, Secretary.

## Montana Migratory Bird Stamp Program

The goals of the Montana Migratory Bird Stamp Program are to protect and enhance waterfowl habitat and to provide for a wide spectrum of waterfowl-related activities. The program's primary focus is to protect and develop wetlands and adjacent upland habitat for the long-term benefit of waterfowl and other wildlife species. Funds for the program are generated from the sale of the required stamp to migratory bird hunters, and the nationwide sale of collector stamps, limited edition prints of the stamp and associated promotional items.

For further information on the Montana Migratory Bird Stamp Program, please contact the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 406-444-2612 or write to FWP Migratory Bird Stamp Program, POB 100720, Helena, MT 59620.

## Dear Montana Waterfowl Hunter:

Our department, through Commission action, sets waterfowl hunting regulations within a framework established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS). This year we will again enjoy  to the more liberal season length and bag limits that were offered in 1995. Duck populations have responded in dramatic fashion to improved water conditions, the nesting cover provided by the Conservation Reserve Program, and the

wetland habitat projects constructed by the various agencies and Ducks Unlimited.

The department is working with the USFWS and other states through the Flyway Councils on a more objective, less contentious approach to setting duck regulations. This approach, called Adaptive Harvest Management, will make the process of establishing regulations simpler and more predictable and will help us learn even more about the effects of hunting on duck populations. Some features of this approach include specific population objectives and a limited set of regulation options for 1996.

The dollars you spend on your Montana Migratory Bird Stamp go directly into waterfowl habitat enhancement projects in this state. These efforts in Montana are very productive and your continued help is essential. This would be an excellent year for you to invest in the future of waterfowl by taking a youngster, a friend, or a former waterfowl hunter along when you go out to enjoy the great waterfowl hunting opportunities that Montana offers.

Thanks for your support and enjoy your waterfowl hunting season!

## License & Miscellaneous Information

Persons under 12 may not legally hunt game birds.

**Mourning Doves, Cranes, Coot and Common Snipe:** Hunters must be in possession of a Montana Migratory Bird Stamp. Note: Montana residents 12-14, 62 or older, or holders of a resident person with disability conservation license need only their conservation license to hunt mourning dove, cranes, coot and snipe. A federal duck stamp is not required.

**Waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans):** Residents and Nonresidents: A) 12-14 years of age need a conservation license only; B) 15 years of age need a conservation license and a Montana Migratory Bird stamp.

Residents: A) 16-61 years of age need a conservation license and both a federal duck stamp and a Montana Migratory Bird Stamp; B) 62 years of age and older and holders of a resident person with disability conservation license need a conservation license and a federal duck stamp.

Nonresidents: A) 16 years of age and older need a conservation license and both a federal and a Montana Migratory Bird Stamp.

Both resident and nonresident waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans) hunters must carry on their person the valid license(s) required and the Montana Migratory Bird Stamp must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp.

A valid "Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit" with a valid Flathead Reservation bird stamp will be honored by the State wherever hunting for upland or migratory birds is lawful in Montana.

**Whooping Cranes:** Notice—Whooping Cranes are protected by law. It is illegal to take or attempt to take this bird. If a Whooping Crane is sighted, please call toll-free 1-800-332-6117.

**National Wildlife Refuges:** More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact: Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Telephone:303-234-4612.

# General Regulations

**Means of Taking** — Migratory birds may be taken only with long, recurve or compound bow and arrow or shot gun not larger than ten gauge incapable of holding more than three shells fired from the shoulder. May not be taken from or by means, or aid of, or use of a sinkbox, aircraft, motor vehicle, or motor-driven conveyance of any kind, except a motorboat when the motor has been shut off and the boat has stopped. Use of any electronic or phonographic waterfowl-calling device is illegal.

**Non-Toxic Shot** — It is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than federally approved non-toxic shot, while hunting, taking or attempting to take waterfowl or coots.

Possession of "other than non-toxic shot" means in the gun, or in the pockets, or within reach while in the process of waterfowl hunting. Shot, other than non-toxic shot, left in a vehicle, while parked in the waterfowl hunting area, would not be considered "in possession" for the purpose of hunting.

**Restrictions** — No person shall take migratory birds by driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in range of the hunter; by the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement). Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

**Hunting Hours** — One half hour before sunrise to sunset except on the Flathead Indian Reservation, the hunting hours shall be sunrise to sunset.

**Leave Wing Attached** — One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to each bird (except doves) at all times while being transported from the place where taken to the personal abode of the possessor or a processing facility.

**Wanton Waste** — No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this part without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) migratory game bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (3) a common carrier facility.

**Game Parts Suitable for Food** — All birds that fall into the size category of a teal duck or smaller only the breasts must be retained.

All birds larger than a teal duck up to the size category of a mallard duck, the breasts and the thighs must be retained.

All birds larger than mallard ducks, the breasts, thighs and wings must be retained.

**Field Possession Limit** — No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp, home, etc.

**Tagging** — No person shall give, put or leave any migratory birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: 1) The hunter's signature; 2) The hunter's address; 3) The total number of birds involved, by species; 4) The dates such birds were killed. Tagging is required if the

birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment, or taxidermy services.

**Flathead Reservation** — The State of Montana and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for migratory bird regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information call FWP at 752-5501 or the Tribes at 675-2700.

**Closed Areas** — State game preserves, closures, and national parks shall remain closed to hunting of migratory game birds. For hunting privileges on Federal Wildlife Refuges, inquire at the local refuge office. Tribal regulations may differ from state regulations, consult tribal offices.

Wildlife Management Areas with big game winter range are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 1, whichever is later to May 15 each year, as posted. EXCEPTION: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10.

# PACIFIC FLYWAY

## PACIFIC FLYWAY: see closures

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.

### Ducks ——

**Open Season:**

September 28, 1996 - December 29, 1996

*See Exception 1, Pacific Flyway (Geese)

**Bag Limit:** The daily bag limit is 7 ducks and mergansers, except that the daily bag may contain no more than 1 female mallard, 2 pintails, 2 redheads and 1 canvasback.

The possession limit may not exceed twice the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

## Coots ——

**Open Season:**

Concurrent with the duck season.

**Bag Limit:** 25 daily and in possession.

## Geese ——

**Open Season:**

September 28, 1996 – January 5, 1997 (See Exceptions)

**Daily Limit:** 3 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross'), and 4 dark geese (all other geese).

**Possession Limit:** Twice the daily bag.

**CONSERVE GAME**
**USE A TRAINED RETRIEVER**

## Sandhill Crane ——

**Open Season:**

September 14-15 & September 21-22, 1996

Hunting in specified portions of Madison and Beaverhead County or Deer Lodge County or Powell County by special limited permit only. Hunters must apply in writing by July 1. Applicants could apply for only one area and need to specify hunting area of choice. The quotas are 65 permits for Dillon-Twin Bridges Area, 15 for Warm Springs Area and 15 for Ovando-Helmville Area.

**Bag and Possession Limit:** 1 crane.

## Common (Wilson's) Snipe ——

**Open Season:**

September 1, 1996 – December 16, 1996

**Bag Limit:** 8 daily and 16 in possession.

## Swan ——

Hunting in Cascade, Chouteau, Liberty, Hill, Toole and portions of Teton and Pondera County by special swan permit only. See Exception 1, Pacific Flyway (Swan).

**Open Season:**

October 12, 1996 – December 1, 1996

Swan hunters must have a watercraft, a dog capable of retrieving or chest-high waders along while hunting the dikes at Freezout Lake, as a means of retrieving swans.

# Exceptions – Pacific Flyway (Geese)

**Exception 1, Canyon Ferry:** Ducks and Geese shall be open one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon September 28, 1996 – October 4, 1996, in those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, then in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to U.S. Highway 287, then east along said highway approximately one-quarter (¼) mile to the Jefferson-Broadwater County line, then southerly along said line to the S.W. corner of T7N, R1W, then easterly along the south boundary of said township to its intersection with Indian Creek, then easterly down said creek to its intersection with U.S. Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with U.S. Highway 12, at Townsend, then easterly along said highway to Broadwater-Meagher County line, then northerly along said line to the head of Magpie Gulch, then southerly down said gulch to State Route 284, then westerly along said highway to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.

**Exception 2, Canyon Ferry:** Shall be open one-half hour before sunrise to sunset October 5, 1996 – January 5, 1997, in the above described area.

**Exception 3, Deer Lodge County:** That portion of Deer Lodge County west of the Continental Divide shall be open one-half hour before sunrise to sunset October 12, 1996 – January 5, 1997.

**Exception 4, Missoula County:** Closed to hunting of all geese: A tract of land comprised of portions of Sections 20, 21, 28, T13N, R18W, more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Montana Power dam at Milltown and extending in an easterly direction along the north shore of the impoundment to Interstate Highway 90, then in a southeasterly

direction along Interstate Highway 90 to the Old Milwaukee Railroad, then in a southwesterly direction across the reservoir where the old railroad bridge existed, then in a northwesterly direction along the railroad to the Montana Power Dam, the point of beginning.

**NOTE:** Drawing will be conducted each morning to determine assignment of goose hunting pits at Ninepipes Wildlife Management Area.

## Exception - Pacific Flyway (Swans)

**Exception 1**: Closed to hunting of all swans, those portions of Teton and Pondera counties lying west of US Highway 287 from Augusta to Choteau and US Highway 89 from Choteau to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

**TURN IN POACHERS**

with this information

- What, Where
- When, Who
- How

1-800-TIP-MONT

(847-6668)

# Waterfowl Hunter Field Log

| Date | County Hunted | No. of Ducks Shot & Retrieved | No. of Geese Shot & Retrieved |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| Totals | | | |

# 1992 CONSEP Wat fowl

Hunters know that steel shot shoots differently than lea owever, (1) understand the ballistics (performance) eel shot The chart below provides information that will he unters n

| Proven Steel Shot Loads for Waterfowl[ab]<br>Load Velocity: 1,225 - 1,425 FPS | Maximum Shooting Distance (Yards) | Most Effective |
|---|---|---|
| **Large Geese at Long Range**<br>Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canada | 65 | to T[c] |
| **Large Geese Over Decoys** | 50 | BBB |
| **Medium /Small Geese at Long Range**<br>Snow, Blue, Whitefront and Lesser Canadas | 65 | BBB |
| **Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys** | 50 | BB |
| **Large Ducks at Long Range**<br>Mallard, Black, Goldeneye, Gadwall and Pintail | 65 | |
| **Large Ducks Over Decoys** | 50 | 2 |
| **Large Ducks in Flooded Timber** | 40 | 5 |
| **Medium Ducks Over Decoys**<br>Wigeon, Scaup and Shoveler | 50 | 3 |
| **Small Ducks Over Decoys**<br>Teal, Ruddy and Bufflehead | 50 | 4 |
| **All Waterfowl**<br>Swatter Load for Wounded Birds | 35 | 5 |

This chart summarizes CONSEP lethality research findings. Few load/choke combinations are capa f delive listed. Individual shooting skill also affects performance. Pattern testing and target practice are reco nded t shooting ranges to less than 50 yards.

NOTE: To date, steel #BBB (.190") has exhibited the best all-around performance for taking g e and s

[a] These findings are based upon review of current CONSEP lethality data base derived from 2 3/4" t 2" 12-g
[b] Copyright 1992 by the Cooperative Nontoxic Shot Education Program and Tom Roster.
[c] Steel #F (.220") in all 12-gauge load configurations has exhibited the highest crippling rate on gees l steel 55 yards.

**The ballistics information is provided courtesy of the Cooperative Nontoxic Shot Education and wildlife agencies; the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Canadian Wildlife Service; the and Winchester Division/Olin Corporation. Contributing members include Larry Gore's Katy**

## te owl Lethality Chart[b]

lea wever, it is just as effective in taking waterfowl if hunters
e) el shot, and (2) practice shooting steel shot.
he nters make better equipment and shot selections.

| | Maximum Effective Range of Shot Size(s) (Yards) | Minimum Load Weight (Ounces) | Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills | Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Distance (Number of Pellets in 30" Circle) | Most Effective Choke |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| o T[c] | 70 | 1 1/4 | 3-4 | 35-45 | Improved Modified |
| BBB | 55-60 | 1 1/8 | 3-4 | 35-45 | Modified |
| BBB | 70 | 1 1/4 | 3-4 | 45-55 | Improved Modified |
| BB | 50-60 | 1 1/8 | 3-4 | 45-55 | Modified |
| | 65 | 1 1/8 | 3 | 65-75 | Full |
| 2 | 55 | 1 | 4 | 85 | Improved Cyl., Modified |
| 5 | 50 | 7/8 | 4 | 85 | Improved Cyl. |
| 3 | 40-55 | 1 | 4 | 110 | Improved Cyl.. Modified |
| 4 | 40-50 | 1 | 3 | 130-140 | Modified, Full |
| 5 | 40 | 1 | - | 160 | Full |

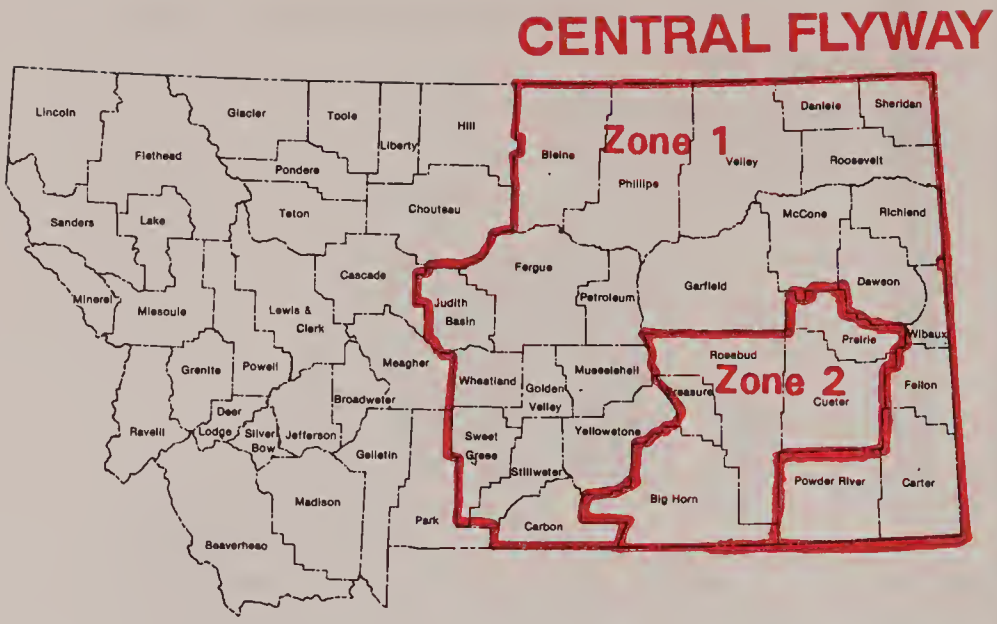
delivering the minimum pattern densities needed for clean kills at maximum range for pellet sizes
ded before attempting extended rang shooting; otherwise, responsible hunters should restrict

and steel #3(.140") the best all-around performance for taking ducks.

" 12-gauge test loads. Findings will be updated and may change as the data base expands.

l steel pellet sizes tested. Due to inadequate pattern density, steel #F is not lethal on geese beyond

**am (CONSEP). CONSEP is a research and information service funded jointly by 28 state fish
ia Department of Conservation and Environment, Australia; Remington Arms Company;
e and Eagle Lake Outfitters and Briley Manufacturing Company.**




## CENTRAL FLYWAY – see closures

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.

### Ducks ——

**Zone 1:** (Includes Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux and Yellowstone Counties)

September 28, 1996 – November 24, 1996
December 7, 1996 – December 31, 1996

**Zone 2:** (Includes Bighorn[1], Custer, Prairie, Rosebud and Treasure Counties).

[1]Where the Bighorn River is the county line between Yellowstone and Treasure counties, the Zone 1 and 2 boundary shall be northerly along State Highway 47 to its junction with I-94, then north along the section lines on the east side of sections 30 and 31 to the Yellowstone River.

September 28, 1996 – October 20, 1996
November 2, 1996 – December 31, 1996

Bag Limits: The daily bag limit is 5 ducks and mergansers, except that it may contain no more than 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 female mallard, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback and 1 hooded merganser.

The possession limit may not exceed twice the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

## Coots ——

**Open Season:**

Concurrent with the duck season

**Bag Limit:** 15 daily and 30 in possession.

## Geese ——

**Open Season:**

September 28, 1996 – January 12 , 1997

**Daily Limit:** 5 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross') and 4 dark geese (all other geese)

**Possession Limit:** Twice the daily limit.

## Sandhill Crane ——

**Open Season:**

September 28, 1996 – November 24, 1996

Persons wishing to hunt Sandhill Cranes must obtain a free permit available in late August from the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge; Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge; Fish, Wildlife, and Parks regional headquarters in Glasgow, Billings, Miles City, and the Fish, Wildlife and Parks office in Helena.

Exceptions: That area south and west of Interstate Highway 90 shall be closed to the hunting of Sandhill Crane.

**Bag Limit:** 3 daily and 6 in possession.

## Common (Wilson's) Snipe ——

**Open Season:**

September 1, 1996 – December 16, 1996

**Bag Limit:** 8 daily and 16 in possession

## Tundra Swan ——

**Open Season:**

September 28, 1996 – December 29, 1996

Hunting by special swan permit only. Inquire with the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Helena Headquarters and the Billings regional office after September 20 as to the availability of swan permits for the Central Flyway.

# STATEWIDE

## Mourning Dove

**Open Season:**

September 1, 1996 – October 30, 1996

**Bag Limit:** 15 daily and 30 in possession.

A Federal migratory bird stamp is not required to hunt mourning doves.

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Mourning doves may be taken only with long, recurve or compound bow and arrow or shotgun not larger than 10 gauge incapable of holding more than three shells fired from the shoulder.

It is illegal to use any motorized conveyance to drive, rally or chase birds; use of records or tapes of migratory birdcalls or sounds is illegal; it is illegal to hunt by the use of baiting; and it is illegal to shoot doves resting on utility lines or fixtures adjacent to those lines.

## Falconry Season ——

### Ducks and Coots — PACIFIC FLYWAY

September 28, 1996 – December 29, 1996
February 25, 1997 – March 10, 1997

### Ducks and Coots — CENTRAL FLYWAY

September 16, 1996 – December 29, 1996

### Geese — STATEWIDE

September 28, 1996 – January 12, 1997

**Bag Limit:** For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during both the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

# STATEWIDE CLOSURES

By order of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission, the following described areas are closed to hunting, harassment, or molesting of migratory waterfowl. Some national wildlife refuges may have regulations differing from the statewide regulations on certain species. **Check with refuge manager before hunting.**

**Region 1, Flathead County:** Beginning where the west access road to the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area enters said area in the SW¼ of the SE¼, Section 24, T26N, R21W approximately one-half mile east of the town of Somers, then E-NE along fence marking U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property as posted to the west property line of the Dedman ownership in the W½ of Section 20, T26N, R20W, then south along said line fence as posted to the north shore of Flathead Lake, then south and westerly approximately 1- 3/4 miles to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ownership sign as posted in the N½ of the N½ of Section 25, T27N, R32W, then northerly along west property line of said Waterfowl Production Area to the point of beginning. **(This area is Also Closed to Hunting of Upland Game Birds.)**

**Region 2, Warm Springs Pond No. 3:** (Deer Lodge County): An area of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, T4N, R10W, portions of Sections 30 and 31, T5N, R9W, and portions of Sections 25 and 36, T5N, R10W, described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Interstate Highway 90 and the Opportunity Road; then northerly on said road to the northerly base of the dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3; then northwesterly along the base of said dike to the area road passing through the Mill-Willow Bypass; then due west

from junction of base of said dike and road to Interstate Highway 90 (as posted); then southerly along said Interstate to its junction with Opportunity Road, the point of beginning.

**Region 3, Portion of the Manhattan Game Closure:** Beginning at the intersection of the west bank of the West Gallatin River and Interstate Highway 90, then running west along the south boundary of said Interstate to a point near the interstate which leads to the ranch entrance of the R.A. Young Ranch, then southwesterly to the east bank of the Spring Creek irrigation canal, then southwesterly along the east bank of said canal to the closest point to the Perk's Canal, then (as posted) westerly to the Perk Canal then southerly along the east bank of the Perk Canal to Camp Creek, then southerly along the southeast side of Camp Creek to a left fork known as Spring Creek, then southerly along the southeast bank of Spring Creek to the south line of Section 23, T1N, R3E, then east along the south line of Sections 23 and 24, T1N, R3E, and Section 19 T1N, R4E, to the West Gallatin River, then north along the west bank of said river to its intersection with Interstate Highway 90, the point of beginning.

**Region 4, Freezout Wildlife Management Area:** (Teton County): SW¼, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W, W½ Section 12, W½ of E½ Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Wildlife Management Area, T22N, R4W. (This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season; then it will be closed to all hunting through November 19, 1996, it will reopen for all hunting from November 20, 1996, to the end of the season.)

**Region 4, Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis & Clark County):** The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating

Reservoir located in Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, T10N, R2W in the Helena Valley as posted. (This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season; then it will be closed to all hunting.)

**Region 4, South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County):** Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction to the south shore, then south approximately ½ mile, then in an easterly direction 1½ miles, then north ¼ mile, then east 3/4 mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D-7, then down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction across the lake to the point of beginning, in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30, T11N, R2W.

**Region 4, Missouri River (Cascade County):** The Missouri River below the ordinary high water inclusive of all islands, backwaters, and sandbars, beginning at the confluence of Sand Coulee Creek and the Missouri River, Section 36, T20N R3E, then downstream to Black Eagle Dam, Section 6, T20N, R4E.

**Region 5:** None

**Region 6, McLean Reservoir (Hill County):** Approximately 2,560 acres located in Sections 16, 17, 20, 21, T36N R15E.

**Region 6, Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County)**: All of those parts of Nelson Reservoir and within 300 yards of its shoreline within the following described sections: Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35, T32N,R32E; and Sections 25 and 26, T32N, R31E; and Section 1, T31N, R31E; and Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, T, 31N, R32E.

**Region 6, North Chinook Reservoir (Blaine County):** Approximately 2,215 acres located in the following sections and part sections of T35N, R18E: NE¼, NW¼, N½, SE¼, N½, S½, SE¼, portion of the SW¼ Section 22, 23 and 24; NE¼, SE¼, N½ NW¼, portion of S½ NW¼ Section 25; portion of the N½ NW¼ Section 26.

**Region 6, Sands Lake (Hill County):** SW¼, Section 18, T32N, R16E.

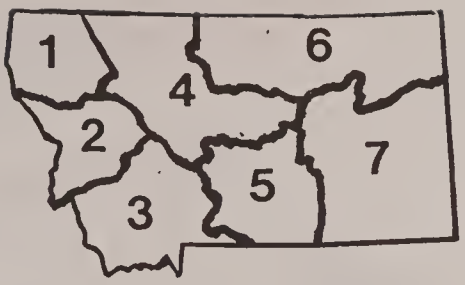
**Region 7, Treasure & Rosebud Counties:** Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, backwaters, and sandbars.

**IF WHOOPING CRANE IS SIGHTED CALL 1-800-332-6117**

**PLEASE REPORT THE BAND NUMBER, LOCATION AND DATE SHOT FOR ANY BANDED MIGRATORY GAME BIRD THAT YOU HARVEST TO THE NEAREST DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS OFFICE OR CALL 1-800-327-BAND**

## State Headquarters

MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
**HELENA** 59620
(406)444-2535




## REGIONAL OFFICES

### REGION 1

490 North Meridian Rd.
**KALISPELL** 59901
(406)752-5501

### REGION 2

3201 Spurgin Road
**MISSOULA** 59801
(406)542-5500

### REGION 3

1400 South 19th
**BOZEMAN** 59715
(406)994-4042

1820 Meadowlark Lane
**BUTTE** 59701
(406)494-1953

930 Custer Avenue West
**HELENA** 59620
(406)444-4720

### REGION 4

4600 Giant Springs Road
**GREAT FALLS** 59406
(406)458-5840

### REGION 5

2300 Lake Elmo Drive
**BILLINGS** 59105
(406)252-4654

### REGION 6

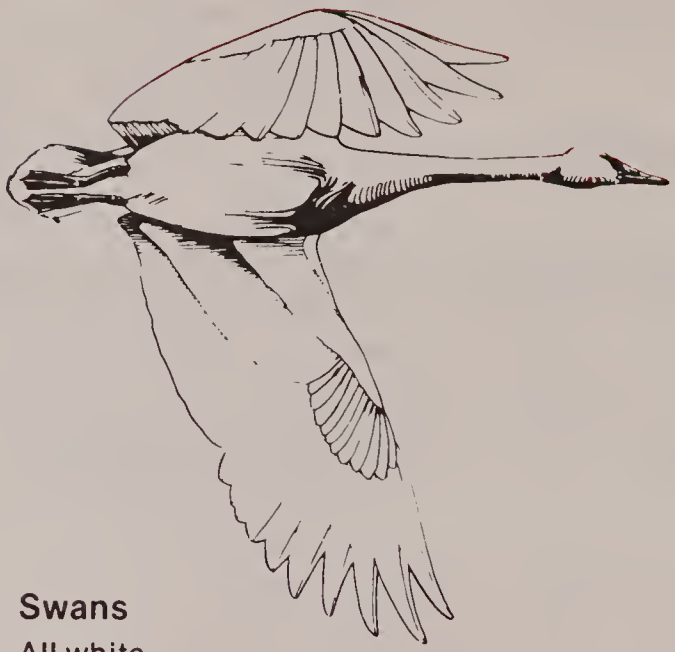
Route 1-4210
**GLASGOW** 59230
(406)228-9347

2165 Highway 2 East
**HAVRE** 59501
(406)265-6177

### REGION 7

P.O. Box 1630
**MILES CITY** 59301
(406)232-4365

# Whooping Cranes and Birds Which Appear Similar



## Swans

All white.
Neck long, extended straight forward in flight.
Wingspan: over 6 feet.
Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight.
Flocks of 2 to 10.

## Snow Geese

White with black wingtips.
Wingspan: 3 to 4 feet.
Short legs.
Rapid wingbeat.
Flocks of 20 to hundreds.

Drawings by Doreen Curtin, courtesy National Audubon Society.

## Whooping Cranes

White with black wingtips.
Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers, with black wingtips.
Necks long, extended straight forward in flight.
Wingspan: 7 feet.
Legs extend beyond tail in flight.
Slow wingbeat.
Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes migrate with sandhill cranes.

## Sandhill Cranes

Gray, with dark wingtips.
Neck long, extended straight forward in flight.
Wingspan: 5 feet.
Legs extend beyond tail in flight.
Slow wingbeat.
Flocks of 2 to hundreds.

# 1996 Sunrise/Sunset Tables for Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for hunting in Montana. (Do not utilize tables from other sources.)

| | Zone 1 | | Zone 2 | | Zone 3 | | Zone 4 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **September** | **Rise** | **Set** | **Rise** | **Set** | **Rise** | **Set** | **Rise** | **Set** |
| 28-30 | 7:32 | 7:25 | 7:22 | 7:14 | 7:08 | 7:01 | 7:01 | 6:54 |
| **October** | | | | | | | | |
| 1-5 | 7:39 | 7:14 | 7:29 | 7:04 | 7:14 | 6:51 | 7:08 | 6:44 |
| 6-10 | 7:46 | 7:04 | 7:36 | 6:55 | 7:21 | 6:42 | 7:17 | 6:32 |
| 11-15 | 7:54 | 6:54 | 7:42 | 6:45 | 7:28 | 6:33 | 7:23 | 6:24 |
| 16-20 | 8:01 | 6:45 | 7:49 | 6:36 | 7:34 | 6:24 | 7:30 | 6:14 |
| 21-24 | 8:09 | 6:35 | 7:56 | 6:28 | 7:41 | 6:15 | 7:38 | 6:05 |
| 25-26 | 8:15 | 6:28 | 8:02 | 6:21 | 7:47 | 6:09 | 7:45 | 5:55 |
| 27-31 | 7:21 | 5:22 | 7:08 | 5:15 | 6:52 | 5:03 | 6:51 | 4:49 |
| **November** | | | | | | | | |
| 1-5 | 7:26 | 5:17 | 7:12 | 5:10 | 6:57 | 4:58 | 6:55 | 4:45 |
| 6-10 | 7:34 | 5:09 | 7:20 | 5:03 | 7:04 | 4:52 | 7:03 | 4:37 |
| 11-15 | 7:41 | 5:02 | 7:27 | 4:57 | 7:11 | 4:46 | 7:10 | 4:31 |
| 16-20 | 7:49 | 4:56 | 7:34 | 4:52 | 7:18 | 4:40 | 7:18 | 4:25 |
| 21-25 | 7:56 | 4:51 | 7:41 | 4:47 | 7:24 | 4:36 | 7:25 | 4:20 |
| 26-30 | 8:03 | 4:47 | 7:48 | 4:44 | 7:31 | 4:33 | 7:32 | 4:17 |
| **December** | | | | | | | | |
| 1-5 | 8:09 | 4:44 | 7:54 | 4:42 | 7:37 | 4:31 | 7:38 | 4:14 |
| 6-10 | 8:15 | 4:43 | 7:59 | 4:41 | 7:42 | 4:30 | 7:44 | 4:13 |
| 11-15 | 8:20 | 4:43 | 8:04 | 4:41 | 7:47 | 4:30 | 7:49 | 4:13 |
| 16-20 | 8:23 | 4:44 | 8:08 | 4:42 | 7:50 | 4:31 | 7:52 | 4:14 |
| 21-25 | 8:26 | 4:46 | 8:10 | 4:44 | 7:53 | 4:33 | 7:55 | 4:16 |
| 26-31 | 8:28 | 4:50 | 8:12 | 4:47 | 7:55 | 4:37 | 7:57 | 4:20 |
| **January** | | | | | | | | |
| 1-5 | 8:28 | 4:56 | 8:12 | 4:53 | 7:56 | 4:42 | 7:57 | 4:25 |
| 6-10 | 8:27 | 5:00 | 8:11 | 4:58 | 7:55 | 4:47 | 7:56 | 4:31 |
| 11-15 | 8:24 | 5:06 | 8:09 | 5:05 | 7:53 | 4:53 | 7:54 | 4:37 |
| 16-20 | 8:21 | 5:13 | 8:06 | 5:11 | 7:50 | 5:00 | 7:50 | 4:44 |
| 21-25 | 8:16 | 5:21 | 8:02 | 5:18 | 7:46 | 5:07 | 7:45 | 4:52 |
| 26-31 | 8:11 | 5:28 | 7:57 | 5:26 | 7:41 | 5:14 | 7:40 | 5:00 |

**Zone 1** - Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties.

**Zone 2** - Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

**Zone 3** - Blaine, Bighorn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties.

**Zone 4** - Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Treasure, Wilbaux and Valley Counties.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks